



The Key Volunteer Network proudly presents

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April/May 2006

The Rose

A publication created by the 1st Battalion 25th Marines Family Readiness Team



"LOOSE LIPS SINK SHIPS!!!"

AS LTCOL LANDRO SO PERFECTLY PLACED IT, "WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL WITH WHAT WE SAY ABOUT OUR MARINES AND SAILORS, LOOSE LIPS SINK SHIPS". WE UNDERSTAND THAT OUR MARINES AND SAILORS GET EXCITED TO SPEAK WITH THEIR LOVED ONES AND SOMETIMES THE WORDS "PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE" CAN SLIP THEIR MIND WHEN DOING SO. WHETHER YOU ARE ON THE PHONE, SPEAKING TO A FRIEND IN A PUBLIC PLACE, CHAT-ting THROUGH AN ON-LINE FORUM OR JUST SENDING AN E-MAIL, PLEASE USE CAUTION WHEN DISCUSSING ANYTHING THAT HAS TO DO WITH THIS DEPLOYMENT. IF WE ALL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP THE LID ON THINGS LIKE "TROOP MOVEMENTS", "TROOP LOCATIONS" AND INDIVIDUAL NAMES OF OUR MARINES AND SAILORS YOU WILL BE DOING YOUR PART TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF YOUR MARINE OR SAILOR! ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT IT IS BETTER TO WALK ON THE SIDE OF CAUTION THAN TO RISK ANY INFORMATION ABOUT OUR MARINES OR SAILORS GETTING INTO THE WRONG HANDS. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ON WHAT SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT BE DISCUSSED, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR KEY VOLUNTEER. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP WITH THIS.

Key Volunteer Network Contact Quick Reference

Key Volunteer

Serving Company

Best way to contact

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FROM THE BATTALION COMMANDING OFFICER

Lieutenant Colonel Chris Landro

The day finally arrived for us to commence our deployment to Iraq. This is why we mobilized and this is what we have been preparing for over the past 4 months. With the pre-deployment training phase now complete we have commenced operations in our AO (Area of Operations). I would like to make some final comments about our pre-deployment training. Your Marines and Sailors performed superbly and were solely focused on preparing for this mission. They performed with absolute professionalism. Our assessment by the training cadre at the Marine Corps Ground Combat Center (29 Palms) was very favorable and this is a direct result of the mental and physical effort put forth by every member of our team.

Training is behind us. We are now operational. Though training is continuous and we are a learning organization everything we do must be incorporated into our operational tempo. We have completed what is called a RIP TOA (Relief in Place – Turnover of Authority). Remember everything in the military has an acronym. I would like to personally thank the leadership and every Marine and Sailor from 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines for the outstanding job they did in setting us up for success. 2/6 is the unit we replaced. Between our advance party and the overlap of units, we have spent five weeks learning everything we could about our AO. They were here for seven long months and know every inch of our area. During this phase they taught us everything they could to prepare us for the rest of our deployment and they did a superb job. We were like sponges absorbing every detail. They have now gone home and we have the con. May they have safe travels and enjoy their homecomings.

Your Marines and Sailors are performing magnificently. Morale is high and we witness acts of bravery, courage and stamina everyday because simply being in Iraq requires some level of each of these that is not normally encountered on the streets of Boston, Portland, Manchester, Harrisburg, Albany, New York City, Plainville, Topsham, Dover or any city back home. These men have formed bonds of brotherhood that grow stronger every day. These bonds are not easily described but they are heartily experienced. I am proud to be counted among them. Rest assured your loved one misses you but he finds solace in his Marine Corps family and is distracted from his thoughts of home by the pace of his day. Write to him, send him care packages, pray for him and love him. This is what he needs.

Semper Fidelis



a photo of the Sgt Major and I with the PSD, which is a cross section of Marines from every Company.

FROM THE BATTALION SERGEANT MAJOR

Sergeant Major Bradley Trudell

Greetings to all from Western Iraq. The Marines and Sailors of 1st Battalion 25th Marines have arrived, assembled and are in full swing performing our mission here in Iraq. We received a great reception from the Marines and Sailors of 2nd Battalion 6th Marines. They provided us with a great turnover as we worked together to gain as much of their knowledge and experience as possible before their departure. We wish them well on their return to the US and a hard earned and well deserved rest and refit.

With 2/6's departure we are now patrolling the streets of Fallujah and Saqlawiyah. We are training the Iraqi Army and working with the Iraqi Police. We are on duty at the entry control points and observation posts in and around the city. We are among the populace handing out candy and soccer balls to kids. We are running the Combat Operations Center, mess halls and repair facilities aboard Camp Baharia. We're delivering mail and running a Battalion Aid Station, Chapel, phone center and internet cafe. If this sounds busy, that's because it is. Everyone is working hard and settling in to the tasks at hand.

The training we received prior to our arrival here has already paid great dividends. The support we are receiving from home provides us with an edge that can't be over emphasized. The packages, letters and e-mails are a morale booster that is as we say in Marine Corps parlance "a force multiplier". Keep them coming. Your Marines and Sailors are doing great things here with the very much appreciated help from home.

Semper Fidelis
SgtMaj Brad Trudell

"The packages, letters and e-mails are a morale booster that is as we say in Marine Corps parlance "a force multiplier". Keep them coming." - SgtMaj Brad Trudell

FROM THE BATTALION CHAPLAIN

Champlain Mark J. Bishop USNR

Well, we finally made it to Iraq and the clock has started clicking down. Each space I visit there is invariably a calendar with some type of mark to signify the passing of the days. Most of the calendars were inherited by our predecessors and we continue the tradition.

The men are focused on every day and they approach their missions with great professionalism and competence. The acts of courage by members of the battalion go far beyond anybodies ability to account. I thank God, because I get to interact with heroes every day.

Easter was a great day for us. I was able to offer services at every FOB and most of the ECP's. The attendance was very high at all sites. It was an appropriate beginning to our time in Iraq. We spent a lot of time on Easter praying for and thinking of family back home. Know that you are very much in our thoughts and prayers.

The marines and sailors are supporting each other very well. I was reminded recently that our families back home need support too. I encourage you to talk to each other and offer a listening ear, or a sympathetic heart to one another. The emotions one goes through when a loved one is deployed are not set in stone. Each day may bring new challenges. You need not face those challenges alone. Often all we require is a sympathetic voice to encourage us. That voice reminds us of our strength and abilities to conquer all that is perceived as an obstacle in our lives. The marines and sailors practice this everyday.

Know that you are in my daily prayers.

Chap. Bishop



FROM THE NAVY TIMES COLUMNIST

Tina McIntosh—PROUD NAVY CORPSMAN WIFE



Have you ever heard the term Devil Doc and wondered what the heck? Being called a Devil Doc is a great honor to Fleet Marine Force Corpsman. Earning your FMF pin is no joke....just ask any FMF Corpsman. Being a greenside Corpsman is very challenging and many Corpsman form lifetime bonds with their Marines. Marines earned the name Devil Dogs in the battle during WWII in Belleau Woods in Germany. At the time the Germans gave the name "devil dogs" or "Teufelhunden" to the Marines since they fought like ferocious animals. From then on the name was then slightly modified to the Corpsman that have fought along side them. Corpsman have had a long close relationship with Marines. Corpsman John Bradley in 1945 helped raise the flag over Iwo Jima alongside Marines and is so depicted in the monument.

Corpsman are not "Separate" from Marines they are one. They form bonds that you and I will probably never understand. "Devil Doc" is just a simple form of endearment shared between the two. So when you hear someone say "Devil Doc" be proud... they have earned that title and respect from the Marines they serve with.

All the Corpsman with the I/25 are busy in their daily tasks but are doing a fine job working as a team. They are putting their Fleet Marine Force training to good use. Please keep sending letters of encouragement and of course those terrific care packages! A good rule of thumb is to let your Sailor know you miss them but limit your letters to happy thoughts and not troubles and woes. We want them to know they are missed and we need them but don't want them distracted from daily tasks with things they can't really do anything about right now. Keep the letters coming even if you feel your not getting responses as often as you like. We have to remember they are there for a reason and very busy. But a small piece of home makes everyday better.

Have a special holiday, Anniversary or birthday? Try getting a regular blank tape. Turn it on during your special day and just freely record daily household conversation and noises. Send the tape in a tape recorder headphone set to your sailor. This lets them be able to close their eyes and feel like they are right there. Have children? Take a pillow case and paint your child's hands with fabric paint. Then put their handprints all over the pillowcase. Attach a note that says "I feel safe in your hands daddy!" Just a few ideas on something other than the typical "care package!" Remember we are all in this together and we will make it through no matter how rough it is. We must all stick together and always be supportive and encouraging to each other. We need to stand as one and make our sailors proud!!

Tina McIntosh

Columnist for the Navy Times

FROM THE ALPHA COMPANY COMMANDER

Major Keith A Sykes

Dear Friends and Family,

Well, we are off to Iraq and in light of this departure I want to take this opportunity to tell all of you "thanks" for the support you have provided and for the sacrifices which each of you have made. As well, I want to assure you that your Marines are ready for what lies ahead.

I realize that there is a common perception, mostly within the general public, that we, as a nation, should not be in Iraq and thus it calls into question the validity of our sacrifices and the necessity of our endeavors. It is difficult to fully articulate the importance of our current mission. It is unfortunately the case that the vast majority of society does not comprehend the gravity of the situation. Although many enjoy the freedoms associated with life in the United States few reflect on how this great society came to be and even fewer realize how tenuous our future may actually be. It has been said and I believe it to be true that "The survival of Democracy requires constant vigilance" and "public apathy inevitably results in anarchy".

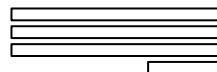
Nearly all wars that we have fought have been fought to liberate human being from oppressive regimes or to prevent the proliferation of such regimes. The most oppressive of these is that which existed in Iraq. Unfortunately, although Saddam is no longer in power, the regime that he created is still, to this day, fighting for control. This regime, which is based on fear and intimidation, cannot be allowed to regain power. Its existence threatens not only the lives of its subjects but also the freedoms of democratic nations and the sovereignty of its neighbors (such as Kuwait). The attainment of a true and lasting peace with Iraq and in the Middle East can only be attained through the proliferation of democracy for in a democratic society, war is a last resort. More specifically, if governments are allowed to exist that are based on control of a population and the subjugation of civil rights rather than on service to the population we will only be confronted with more regimes reminiscent of those that existed under Saddam, Lenin, Stalin, Hitler and Tito. For these regimes war is a means to maintain internal control. Stability within these regimes is predicated on the existence of an enemy which poses a more imminent threat to the populations' survival than that which is posed by the current government; this condition has existed in nearly every totalitarian dictatorship to date. As well, it is not necessary that the external threat be valid, it is only necessary that the subjugated population believe that the threat exists and moreover, the attainment of this fallacy is easily achieved within the context of a closed and oppressed society. Within such regimes, it is essential that the dictator balance the population's hatred for it's own government against the seemingly eminent threat posed by outside forces. Modern day examples of such regimes can be found within the PLO, North Korea, Saudi Arabia and Iran. Although we would like to see these regimes fall as a result of internal decay it is more often the case that these nations use war or the imminence of war to resolidify internal control over it's people and as a result, the most dangerous time for free nations is not when these regime prosper but rather when they are about to falter.

So, why are we in Iraq? The easy answers is "For the OIL!" but were it true, we would be paying a lot less for gas and not even the liberal democrats have had the temerity to float that line. It is only the college professors and the ill informed who have championed such an answer. The real reason we are in Iraq is to attempt to bring a lasting peace to an area of the world that, though we do not like to say so, is critical to the preservation of our way of life. I am not referring to cheap gas or living in the lap of luxury but rather the freedom to live as Americans within a global society without the fear of being killed merely because of our religious beliefs or the music we listen to. For too long we have assumed that rights which we believe to be inalienable are guaranteed to be ephemeral. Only within the context of a stable democracy will Iraq cease to be a threat to the United States. If tyranny is allowed to return to power in Iraq, it will take hold with a vengeance yet to have been seen on this earth. Our abandonment of Iraq, its people and this fledgling democracy will certainly spell greater problems down the road. The failure of our current mission will only serve to embolden tyrants and will further serve as the seminal moment from which a ground swell of international terrorism sprang. In the end Democracy is the only hope for peace and it is essential that it succeed in Iraq.

As for why your individual Marine has chosen to go off to war there are many reason; some easier to explain than others. Some have gone to find themselves and others to challenge themselves as men. In the end they all go because their country called and although their motivations may differ, when the times get tough and the bullets fly, they all fight for the same thingeach other.

In parting I would like you all to know that what your Marine has embarked upon is a solemn and noble cause, the sacrifice is worth it and history will not fail to illuminate the merits of their actions. Pay no attention to the "nay sayer" and detractors, seldom has any great achievement been the result of such people. The vision and sacrifice of the unselfish is what has made this country great and it is they who will determine the future of this country.

Respectfully,
Keith A Sykes
A Co CO



Rank/ Complete Name
1st BN 25th Mar A Co
UNIT 72180
FPO AE 09509-2180

FROM YOUR ALPHA COMPANY KEY VOLUNTEER

KATHLEEN COVEL -PROUD MARINE MOM

KEEP IN TOUCH: Spring is here and I am grateful for birds singing, longer days, the sun shining brighter, green lawns, beautiful flowers and trees, and sounds of dear children's' laughter. Thank you my friends for sharing supportive messages, comics, and stories about the many benefits we enjoy living in our great country. It is your positive spirit which helps me and others not sweat the little things, stay the course, be strong, and remain true for our guys who matter most! Kath. kcovel@comcast.net/cell 978-793-0341.

CONGRATULATIONS: To Abbie and her proud Marine (a/k/a my son) on their engagement, which, of course, happened at the most romantic place in the world, 29 Palms!

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES: Thanks to everyone who attended the Creative Memories Scrap Booking Class, April 1st. It was wonderful to see each other and share words of encouragement and support while having fun, food, and good conversation. Danielle patiently showed us how to start projects by explaining what we need to have on hand, then how to use it, and what to do in order to complete our scrap booking projects. Our thanks also to 1st Sgt. Herman for allowing us the use of the room at Devens and to Julie Delcourt, BN KVC for coming in and speaking to families.

RECOMMENDED PLACES TO VISIT: A favorite is **Portsmouth, NH**, a great place to walk downtown, visit Prescott Park, visit Strawberry Banke Museum and get good chowda! For information call 603-433-1100,

www.strawberrybanke.org

How about **Plymouth, MA**? Visit Plimouth (colonial sp.) Plantation, Plymouth Wax Museum, the Plymouth Rock, and The Mayflower, and enjoy good food too! Contact Destination Plymouth, Phone: 508-747-7533, info@visit-plymouth.com

Or, are you up for a road trip? I've heard this is a beautiful place to tour (but my first and only husband, to date, has not taken me there yet)! **Colonial Williamsburg, VA** www.history.org/ Contact the Customer Care Center by calling 1-800-HISTORY.

WEB SITES: **USO NEW ENGLAND** Believes "*Behind Every Military Member is a Family Holding Down the Home-front.*" For more information about USO New England, log on their web site www.usonewengland.org/ or call Greater Boston Center at 617-720-4949.

Carolyn suggests you check out this wonderful website: celebrateahero.com

Nancy says this is the web site for PHONECARDS: <https://thor.aafes.com> and mentioned they sell AT&T military exchange 550 unit global prepaid phone cards for \$39. They work in Iraq, and give the caller about 2-2 1/2 hours of time. Since they don't call often and can't talk for more than 20-30 minutes at a time, it lasts for awhile. She said it's the best deal out there!

A GIFT: A beautiful stained glass cross and USMC photo holder was given to me recently from someone who understands what it is to care for a U.S. Marine. In order to place my proud Marine's photo in the holder, I had to remove a paper next to the USMC insignia, written on it was: *I therefore believe it is my duty to my Country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.*
William Tyler Page

FROM THE BRAVO COMPANY FIRST SERGEANT

First Sergeant Garry A Hubbard

Hello,

I know many of you have been wanting and waiting for information on how you're Marine has been doing during his deployment. I am sorry for the lack of information but the "Boys of Company B" have been moving at a very fast pace and we do not always have the access to phones and email. There has been no time for rest for the Marines. Plus, no one was going to get in the way of the Marines success at 29 Palms CA. The Company did very...very well on their last training exercise at 29 Palms CA. At that time I knew we were ready to make our journey across the great ocean to the land of sand and many types of bugs.

Around the end of March 2006 the "Boys of Company B" were told again to pack their gear to get ready for another short trip. The Marines started making their journey across the great nation of United States from the west coast to the east coast and across one of the great oceans by air to Kuwait to a wait for another short journey from Kuwait to Iraq. While awaiting for the short trip several of the Marines called their loved ones, family, and friends to inform them that they were doing fine in their journey.

Things have been moving pretty fast for the Marines of Bravo Company. The boys of the Company have been working side by side with the Marines of Echo Company, 2nd Battalion 6th Marines, 2nd Marine Division. The Marines of Echo Company was happy to see their relief in sight by seeing the new faces of the Marines being sent to their location.

Shortly after we arrived the boys from Echo Company, 2nd Battalion 6th Marines, 2nd Marine Division were on their way home and we were working on our own here in Al Fallujah, Iraq.

It feels like yesterday that we were just leaving the home area of New England with snow on the ground and heading to Fort Devens, Ayre Ma and then onto 29 Palms CA for a little training and preparation for a little journey that would effect many people both good and bad for a life time. Some of the Marines were not able to make the journey with the Company for uncontrollable reasons. Now it is April 2006 the fifth month into the deployment, the boys of Company "B" are patrolling the streets of Al Fallujah, Iraq and speaking with people who they have never seen in a lifetime. The Marines are doing very well with regards to dealing with the long hours and the way of life here in Iraq.

I have been informed that several care packages have been sent out to us. I want to take this time to thank you all in advance. We have been receiving mail daily and I enjoy seeing a smile on the Marine's face when he receives a letter, package etc. The motto mail has been a big hit with the Marines in the company. If you want to get a message to your Marine within 48-96 hours just send a message through motto mail. A lot of the Marines have already been receiving motto mail, some more than others.

Please, if you have not heard from your Marine by phone, email, or letter in about four days or more. I would like for you to contact your Key Volunteer and inform he or she of the situation. Once I am informed of the situation reference to the lack of commutations. I will ensure the Marine contacts you within a reasonable amount of time. At this time we do not have email at our location so you may not receive any email in a timely manner but we do have outgoing letter mail and one phone for the company for welfare calls.

Thanks for all of your help, thoughts, and prayers.

Semper Fi

First Sergeant Hubbard, Gary A
Bravo Company, 1st Battalion 25th Marines



Rank & Complete Name
1st BN 25th Mar Bravo Co
Unit 72185
FPO AE 09509-72185

First Sergeant Garry A Hubbard (cont'd)

PROMOTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL FOR BRAVO COMPANY:

SERGEANT TO STAFF SERGEANT:

Sgt BROOKS

LANCE CORPORAL TO CORPORAL:

LCpl FIORELLO

LCpl MUSTANTE

LCpl CORNIEL

LCpl BECKER

LCpl SAWITZ

LCpl BERRESI

LCpl LEIBRANDT

LCpl CHUN

LCpl WHITE

LCpl BICE

LCpl KOUTALAKIS

CORPORAL TO SERGEANT:

Cpl BENNER,

Cpl JONES,

Cpl ONYSKO,

PRIVATE FIRST CLASS TO LANCE CORPORAL:

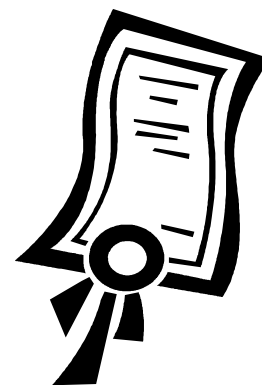
PFC SILVERTHORNE

PFC HENRY

PFC VALIENTE CRUZ

PFC ANDERSON

PFC TEP



Bravo Company Family Day

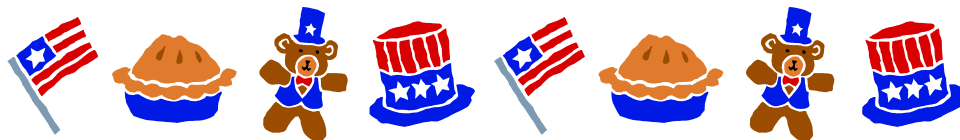
Sunday, MAY 7th 11:00am-4:00pm

Londonderry Drill Center of Londonderry, NH

Patriotic Theme

RSVP's to your KV @ April 27

This event is open to all 1/25 families



First Sergeant Garry A Hubbard (cont'd)



Marine patrolling the streets of Al-Fallujah.



Bravo Company Marines at Camp Fallujah



Marine patrolling the streets of Al-Fallujah.



Sergeant Igo with some of the children of Al-Fallujah.



Sergeant Brooks of Bravo Company being promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant.



Bravo Company patrols the streets of Fallujah.

Important Information & Dates

Bravo Families remember to mark your calendars for MAY 7th 11:00 - 16:00 at the Londonderry Drill Center

This year Bravo Company's Family Day will have a Patriotic Theme. Please remember to let your KV's know how many guests will be attending with you by April 27

We are hoping that other families from the 1/25 battalion will attend. If you would like to attend, please give me a call! (Michelle Proulx KVC) for Bravo call by April 27th with a headcount from your family. Hope to see you all there!



Thank you Mrs. Krailo – for finding a great website to get phone cards to our Marines. It is easy to do using a credit card or a checking account. www.oif.spawareurope.net I also wanted to let all the families of Bravo Company know that our Marines were sent 24 pounds of Dunkin Donuts coffee and a whole lot of Girl Scout cookies. A wonderful young lady from a local girls scout troop got the cookies for the Marines. Mrs. Krailo has a contact with someone in Dunkin Donuts, so please don't worry about getting coffee to the guys, it is covered! There is more to come.

Moto Mail

It is a great way to get letters to your Marines. Please keep in mind that you are sending the letter via the internet, it may take longer than 24hrs to reach your Marine. www.motomail.us If you need any help or have any questions, please call your KV or me!

It is that time of year. I know that my boys will be busy watching the Red Sox and trying to keep daddy up to date on the scores in their letters to him as well as writing about it in their journals. One thing the boys and I did was make a book that has nothing but scores of the Sox games in it. We also have started to clip out articles from the paper or online about the games and players. It is going to be a gift for daddy when he comes home. In all the craziness, we still have to throw in our own local baseball league. The boys also have their own games to play. If one is not at practice, the other one is at a game and in the mix I have the 2 year old that is yelling "my turn, I do, I hit" and wanting to know why he cannot be in the field playing too. It is going to be a crazy baseball year. So I guess what I am saying is when things get crazy it is best to just take a deep breath and laugh. You could also turn on the Red Sox and cheer them on. Try and get out to a game or two.

Ideas to help pass the time:

- ◆ Start a garden – get out and enjoy the warm sunshine, [It's here!!!](#)
- ◆ Take a walk, on the beach, or on a new trail.
- ◆ Go to the local kids ball games!
- ◆ Start a project that you have always wanted to do: scrapbooking, sewing, and painting.
- ◆ Write letters or a book of poems to your Marines and Sailors, they can never get to many letters.
- ◆ Go out to lunch or dinner, with an old friend or make a new one!

My boys and I have a picnic when we want to do something fun. We put down the blanket, and get out the basket - the whole works. Dad loves to see pictures like that. We all can get through this next stretch! Just keep the eyes on the Sox to help with the time. When their season is over, it is time to plan for the men to come home!

I want to also say a BIG THANK YOU to St. Mary's Bank in Manchester for all the things they have done for Company B, including the phone cards that they sent. They have hosted the Manchester Monarch's Hockey games for us. That has been a huge hit with the kids and the young at heart parents. In fact, they made my two boys' night. They invited the 3 of us to the opening game of the Manchester Fisher cats. They asked my oldest son to throw out the 1st pitch! My middle son and I got to be right down by the field as well. They even had box seats for us to watch the game. It was the most amazing thing ever. So, when you have a chance to get out to one of the events, please do. I am sure that you will have the time of your life. When they introduced my son and said that his father was serving in Iraq with a company out of Londonderry, NH. The place went crazy! To see the pride on my children's faces, knowing that the people were cheering the Marines and Sailors, was priceless. It was something that the boys and I will never forget. Lastly, I just want to say that I hope you all had a great Holiday. Please, get out and enjoy the warm sunshine when you have a chance. Again, if you need anything, please call me or e-mail me anytime day or night. Hope to see you all at Family Day!

God Bless

Michelle Proulx

Michelle.proulx@yahoo.com

FROM THE CHARLIE COMPANY FIRST SERGEANT

First Sergeant Ben Grainger

We have been provided with enough rat traps and other rodent exterminating supplies for Charlie Company at this time. They are on the way. If you have already purchased or received some as donations send them because there are no shortage of insurgent rats and flies. If I don't need all of them, which I will, I will pass them to our sister companies from Mass, Maine and NH. Mary Ann Rudolph, with Sunny Brook Stables, has worked her magic and resources to get them for us. To include for our Rabid cat problem. The e-mails are making there way across the state like a California wildfire in the summer. I have received numerous e-mails of support including from all of our sister services who are getting supplies to help us.

Things continue to go well for the Marines in our area of Operation. We are out the daily and I can tell you, except for a few people, the locals are greeting us and the kids love us. We are making a difference as we allow the local governments and police time to gain control of the town. As you can imagine Fallujah is taking a little longer to settle down but is progressing quite well. The Marines are in high spirits and continue to do good things. We are very limited on resources here since we are an outpost known as a FOB (forward operating Base) . It is actually fun this way because this is what the Marine Corps grew up on. It is actually better than the first time I was over here when we had nothing. I have some new pictures of individual Marines and what we are doing over here. I will try to get some of everyone who is over here so that you can see your special Marine (besides me). I am only a motivation source back here and I encourage you to work with LtCol Larghe, and the staff at the I&I if you have questions on any issue and the lovely and dedicated Key volunteer Melissa Malm. You can work with her through LtCol Larghe at the I&I. They can also give you ideas on how to help the deployed Marines. We are good on all the pest control measures as both the Rudolphs, from Sunny Brook Farms and the Laubers, who we all know with the Marine Corps League, have not only come up with the source but financed the goods to get out here for any and every pest we mentioned. There are several businesses to really thank, along with both of them. Agway and the other Hardware store that have supported them have taken care of our Marines. I would also encourage you all to stop by if they are in your neck of the woods and thank them. Do business with them for standing behind our Marines. I would also like to put out to all of you that the Connecticut Marine Corps League has been one of the truest supporters and friends of Charlie Company for as long as I have been here. They have never ask for anything in return from our Marines for there dedicated work. I would encourage you all to get with the State Commandant, Richard Wearne, and see if they can use any help in mailing out stuff or just general support of the League. If you know of a prior Marine ask them if they belong to the state Marine Corps League. If not tell them to get off there butts and join or they will deal with the 1stSgt when I get back. In closing I would be remiss to leave out our brother services all of them the Navy out of Plainville, Hartford, and Groton, the Air Force 103rd Fighter Wing out of East Granby, Army, CT Army National Guard have come to the support of deployed Marines from their state with support. I will update the list of desired items by our Marines shortly as the boxes are starting to food in. Enough talk, Let the pictures begin.—1stSgt Grainger

Congratulations to the following promoted Marines:

Cpl Livingstone to Sgt	LCpl Ortiz
Cpl Robillard to Sgt	LCpl Eosso
Cpl Brower to Sgt	LCpl Tagnosky
LCpl Thach to Cpl	LCpl Mazon
LCpl LaFlamme M	LCpl Lofton
LCpl Meurice	PFC Moore to LCpl
LCpl Byrnes	PFC Obrien
LCpl Sheehan	PFC Nuzzi
LCpl Heredia D	PFC Chamberlain



Rank & Complete Name
1st Bn 25th Mar Charlie Co
Unit 72190
FPO AE 09509-2190

FROM THE CHARLIE COMPANY FIRST SERGEANT

First Sergeant Ben Grainger (continued)



Scenic view of the C company AO



Barriers or walls of sand



A place to hang their cover...



Charlie Co Marines on a detail (names were not submitted with this picture)



Here is my office where the Marines come to visit me. Usually it is a friendly place, no really. You will notice the Marine Banner Dick Wearne Gave me to carry for the MCL on the wall.



Charlie Co Marines on a patrol within their AO or Area of Operations

FROM THE CHARLIE COMPANY FIRST SERGEANT

First Sergeant Ben Grainger (continued)



LCpl Kennedy of Charlie Co on patrol



Sgt Malm, Sgt Correa, Sgt Roberts, 1stSgt
Just returned from a mission.



Here is who we are helping out. They don't even know what candy is or have toys to play with unless we give them some. Yes it is worth it.-1stSgt Grainger



LCpl Gregoire, LCpl Stearns, LCpl Parniawski, LCpl Conti
Preparing to go out on the next patrol of the city.

First Sergeant Leon Rideout

Greetings to all in the H&S Company family. It has been awhile since I have been able to write to all of you. All of H&S Company Marines deployed to Kuwait where after a 48 hour wait we boarded C-130s for Iraq. The Company then convoyed to Camp Baharia and settled in. The first week was spent working with our counterparts in 2nd Bn. 6th Marines. During the 2nd week we took over with oversight from our counterparts this made for a smooth and very successful transition. H&S Company continues to support the rest of the Battalion with all its assets though many of our Marines are in New and demanding jobs their efforts and motivation has been outstanding. All are doing well.

We are making great efforts to keep your Marines in touch with all of you at home but please understand that different jobs and posts will vary the amount of time your Marines will have to call home. Please continue to send letters ect. Every Marine loves mail at mail call. The Company has received an outstanding box of Easter Cards From the St. Bridget School the Marines enjoyed them immensely. We would also like to thank out KVN volunteers for their outstanding work. You all have been doing a great job!

H&S Company congratulates the following Marines on their recent promotions

Sgt Vitale

Sgt Westerman

Sgt. Brown

Cpl. Ojalehto

Cpl. Davis

Cpl. Shaw D.P.

LCpl Perks

SSgt Conway

SSgt Goldsmith

They have been doing an outstanding job!

Thanks to all the family members who are being Super supportive

1stSgt Rideout



Sgt Lindsey and Sgt Greib
wait at Camp Victory in Kuwait!



Cpl Conroy and LCpl J. Pugsley looking good!



Even when they are suppose to be sleeping, the Marines still find time to test the "Breakdance-ability" of their helmet!

Gunny Logi of COM platoon



Getting Organized with all that Gear!



Thanks for
your help
Tracy C!



Scout Snipers, SSgt Chase and Sgt
Gadarowski get ready to go out.

- photo courtesy of 1stSgt Grangier



Welcome Home Bill for Massachusetts Veterans

The "Welcome Home" Bonus program is administered by the Massachusetts State Treasurer's office. It provides a one-time \$500 or \$1,000 tax-free payment to service members activated since September 11, 2001. Military members who have served in Afghanistan and Iraq will receive \$1000. Those who have served domestically or in other foreign countries for a period of six months or more will receive \$500. Required paperwork includes a residence certificate, a copy of discharge papers or a form from the Commanding Officer for active duty claimants, and a photocopy of their military ID with documentation of where they served. The "Welcome Home" bill serves as an expression of gratitude to service members for their dedication and commitment. Forms can be downloaded and more information can be obtained at <http://www.gov/treasury/veteransbonus> Don't forget to remind your Marines to apply for the "Welcome Home" bill when they return!

Looking for something to do with your kids? Download a detailed map of Iraq at <http://www.marineparents.com/usmc/back-to-iraq.asp> Your kids can color and learn about Iraq's cities and towns and bordering countries.

Here is a recipe that is definitely worth trying!

Super Chocolate Peanut Butter Cookies

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ all purpose flour
- 1 c packed light brown sugar
- ¾ c peanut butter chips
- 1 c Reese's pieces
- 1/4c unsweetened cocoa powder
- 2/3c butter, softened
- 1½ tsp vanilla

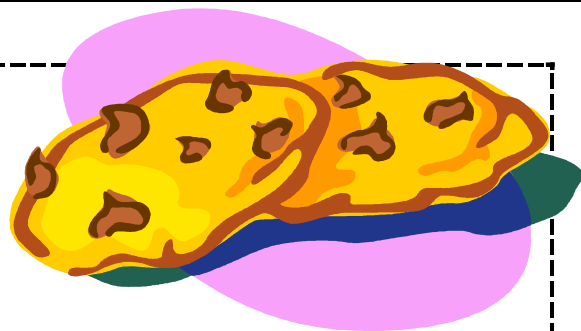
Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 F

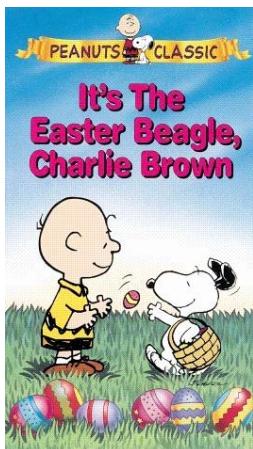
Beat butter in large bowl until smooth. Beat in eggs and vanilla until well blended.

Add all the dry ingredients to butter mixture. Stir until well blended.

Drop dough by heaping tablespoons two inches apart onto un-greased cookie sheets. Bake 11-12 minutes or until almost set. Let cookies stand on cookie sheet for two minutes. Remove cookies to wire racks to cool completely. Enjoy!



DANIELLE SABOURIN—PROUD MARINE WIFE



Happy April everyone!! Spring is finally here hooray!! I am so excited I feel like Snoopy in "It's the Easter Beagle Charlie Brown" skipping through town an Easter bunny costume throwing eggs around. Spring is here, spring is here, spring is here!

At the risk of inviting Murphy's law into play; those wanting to know if the locusts have descended upon my home will be happy to hear that they have arrived but in the form of beautiful butterflies. The girls noses have dried up, the fevers have gone down, the snow has melted and I replaced a bad short leave in February with a great visit to 29 Palms in March. It was amazing. The reason we were there never crossed our minds, we were too distracted by golfing, eating in favorite California eateries, seeing friends and enjoying each other... basically distracted by all California had to offer. The good bye never crossed our minds until we walked to the gate. Don't get me wrong, the goodbye was tough, but in place of regrets I have memories to carry me through the deployment. We did everything we wanted to do - being a former California girl, leaving Cali is always hard and I always find myself wishing I had seen so and so or had one more burger and shake at Ruby's. This trip was different - we did it all... and my scale can prove it!! One of the coolest things in Cali was seeing our beloved Marines. I have to tell you, I was so impressed with the height of the morale and how much they were enjoying each other!

Every Marine I spoke to, including Lt Col Landro, was super excited about how well they performed at Mojave Viper and all told of the rave reviews they were given by the coyotes. Their spirits were sky high and they were ready to get over to Iraq and make a difference. I have never been so impressed by our Marines and Sailors.

March 26th I saw more beautiful butterflies.... They were in the form of the family members who attended our H&S family pot-luck!! What a wonderful afternoon, thank you to all who attended! During our "toilet paper game" moms of two friends met each other for the first time and compared Vegas stories, in the kid's craft area play dates with new friends were arranged and on the tables lining one side of the room were the most delicious foods!! We were not at a loss for food or laughter (thanks in large part to a certain "Marine not currently serving")! It was such a great day - I cannot wait to do it again! For those who could not attend you were missed but don't worry we will be having many more in the months to come.

This month is the Month of the Military Child....so to those brave children out there, pat yourselves on the back - you are all so special; I admire your courage and your strong little hearts. You make your families and your country so proud. I have some recommendations for books for military children - My kids like them....

Daddy You're My Hero

My Daddy is a Soldier (I say Marine in place of soldier)

In honor of the Military Child - here are song lyrics by Karen Mason

There it is night. Here it is day.
While you are sleeping, I am at play
Running and laughing but stopping to say
I miss you, Daddy, when you are away
We may be mountains and oceans apart
So high and wide, but that's OK
My love can find you wherever you are
(or how 'bout I meet you half way?)
I tell my heart, "Don't be lonely" but it won't obey
I miss you, Daddy, when you are away
At breakfast and dinner and bedtime we pray
For God to protect you and help you be brave
I smile and remember why you are so great....

Tickles and wrestling at the end of the day
Teaching me, Listening to the things that I say
Hugging me, Kissing all over my face
Fighting so bravely for the United States...
Oh, I miss you, Daddy, when you are away
We may be mountains and oceans apart
So high and wide, but that's OK
My love can find you wherever you are
(or how 'bout I meet you half way?)
I tell my heart, "Don't be lonely" but it won't obey
I miss you, Daddy, when you are away
I miss you so badly when you are away
Keep fighting bravely for the United States



Happy spring and to those little ones - it is your month, be proud of yourselves!!

Warmest regards,
Danielle Sabourin

Danielle Sabourin

First Sergeant Charles Delcourt

It seems like it has been such a long time since we have last updated the families. Weapons Company has been very busy since we have arrived in Iraq. We did a turnover with the Marines from 2/6 after their successful tour, and they had done a lot in preparation for our arrival. They worked long hours to pass on as much as they could about the city, and left us some great accommodations and creature comforts as well. We are staying at Camp Baharia just outside of the city of Fallujah, allowing easy and quick response to the city. We are doing our best to help the population of Fallujah keep their city safe and sound. Items we could really make good use of are things to hand out to children; candy, stationary, coloring books, crayons, etc.... We subscribe to winning their hearts and minds. The majority of the population is extremely receptive to our assistance. If it didn't take so long to download and send pictures, you would not believe how much assistance is needed here to make things right. The Marines do appreciate all of the mail you have been sending.

Congratulations to the following Marines who were promoted on 01Apr06:

Cpl Guerrero to Sergeant

LCpl Rocha to Corporal

LCpl Landry to Corporal

LCpl Bruce to Corporal

LCpl Gordon to Corporal

LCpl Bambury to Corporal

LCpl Omeara to Corporal

LCpl Watson to Corporal

PFC Dunn to Lance Corporal

Congratulations to all.

Until next time.....



Rank/ Complete Name

1st BN 25th Mar WPNS Co

Unit 72200

FPO AE 09509-72200-2200

First Sergeant Charles Delcourt (cont'd)



THE HEAVY GUNS PLATOON



THE SMOKIN' GUNS...



A Marine and his coffee...
It's another beautiful thing...



A VEHICLE MOUNTED MACHINE GIN



WEAPONS COMPANY MARINES IN A CONVOY

Hello Families,

Our Marines and Sailors are well trained and are going to get a lot accomplished. I had a chance to speak with a lot of them before they left & the one thing I can say is that they are "ready to rock!" Their spirits are high, they want to just "get over there and get back home!"

Most of us once again had a short & sweet visit with our Marines/Sailors & the time went by too fast, so that must mean that this time will fly by quickly also! Now that spring is here, let's get out, get busy & the days should breeze right by.....before we know it, summer, then fall, then are men are back! We are on the second leg of our journey so let the count down begin!

It was a pleasure speaking with all of you once again & I had some great conversations. Keep the communication open as that will help every one of us & please remember any changes to your email, phone or address, please send them my way!

Take Care & God Bless,

Charlotte Wills

Key Volunteer

1/25th Marines

Weapons Company

781-894-1787

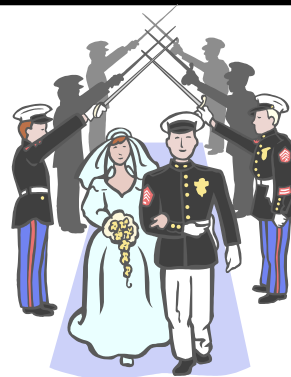
charlottewills@rcn.com



Recipe for a Military Wife

1 1/2 cups patience
1 lb. adaptability
3/4 cup tolerance
1 tsp courage
a dash of adventure

Combine above ingredients. Add 2 tablespoons elbow grease.
Let sit alone for one year
Season frequently with salty tears
Pour off excess fat.
Sprinkle lightly with money, knead until payday
season with international spices
bake 20 years or until done.



JULIE DELCOURT—PROUD MARINE WIFE

MAY 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Bravo Co Family Day	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Mother's Day Tea	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Troops In the Spotlight!	29	30	31			

SAVE THE DATE!!!

- May 7th—Bravo Co Family Day
- May 14th—Mother's Day
- A "Mother's Tea" - open to all family members
- May 28th & 29th— Memorial Day (2 day event)
- TROOPS IN THE SPOTLIGHT kick-off ceremony starts at noon in Kmart plaza parking lot in Hyannis MA.
- June 24th—Half Way PARTY!!
- Battalion wide, join us to celebrate our 1/2 way point! This will be a "Family Day" for the entire Battalion! Details to follow...
- September 24th— Boston Marine Corps Honor Run 5k & 10 K

Attention Runners: Please let me know if you are interested in joining the "1/25" Team

You might be missing your Leatherneck if...

One of my favorite parts of being a Volunteer is hearing from you. In addition to hearing your thankful and kind words, some of you share your inner most thought and feelings and I appreciate this so much. Many of you also like to run a "sanity check" by telling me the crazy thing you do to keep yourself going and I must say you are hilarious. I am by no means a therapist so I can't tell you if your crazy but what I can tell you is that you love your Marines and Sailors and that is good enough for me. Please enjoy the comical confessions of your fellow families and how they get through deployment (after all, there is no "proper way")...

I add a little of his laundry to the rest of the household. It makes me feel like he is home. It was working fine until my daughter asked me, "Mom, why don't you just throw all of Dad's laundry in all at once instead of having this pile"? She is grounded now for being so sensible.- proud Navy Wife

I can't take his toothbrush out of our cup in the bathroom even though I ask myself..." who the heck would use a toothbrush that has been sitting there for 8 months?"
- proud Marine Wife

I refuse to delete his calls from our caller ID, even though I can't call him back at any of the numbers... I have already tried too many times to mention— proud Marine Mom

I had to use my Sailors deodorant today, not because I ran out, just because I felt like smelling like him today. My neighbor accused me of "smelling like a dude!" - proud Navy Wife

What are you doing to get through? Yah...We might be missin' our Leathernecks!

What is a Leatherneck? - A term used referring back to one of the original uniforms of the 1700's. This term of endearment is in reference to the "leather stock" worn for protection against sabers.

May we interest you in a spot of tea? Mum?



*The Key Volunteers within
the 1st Battalion 25th Marine Regiment
request the presence of the
Mother's, Wives and Fiancées'
of our Marines and Sailors deployed to Iraq.*

On Mother's Day
Sunday, May 14th, 2006
at 3 o'clock in the afternoon,
we will gather at the
Boxborough Holiday Inn at Boxborough Woods
located at 242 Adams Place in Boxborough, MA

For our overnight guests, you may book your room by asking for the "1/25 Rate"
and by calling the toll free number (866) 270-5110

*Since our budget is VERY limited,
we will be providing a light fare and of coarse a nice cup of Tea!*

**You must RSVP to your Key Volunteer by May 9th or you
WILL NOT BE PERMITTED INTO THE FUNCTION HALL!**

**If you respond as a FIRM Yes and then do not attend, this will cause us to pay for your
seat and will waste money that we do not have!**

Please have the courtesy to help us with attaining the exact number in attendance.

ON-LINE INFORMATION...

1/25 is on
the Web!



www.mfr.usmc.mil/4thmardiv/25thMar/1stBn

A very big Thank you to Gunnery Sergeant Peter Walz for creating, designing and maintaining the brand new 1/25 website. The amount of effort that the Gunny put into this site does not go unnoticed! We are so appreciative of all his hard work and the website is and will continue to be spectacular!!! Thank you Gunny Walz!!!!

April is the month of the Military Child!

To celebrate and acknowledge the contributions and sacrifices made by our military children, April has been designated the Month of the Military Child. The celebration is a legacy of former Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger who died last week. He established the Month of the Military Child in 1986 as an opportunity to emphasize the importance of providing military children with quality services and support to help them adjust and succeed in today's mobile and highly deployable military lifestyle. Child and Youth programs across the services will use this month to provide education on military child and youth programs, increase awareness on the special needs faced by military children and provide opportunities to celebrate with this very valuable and much loved military population! We would like to thank all of our military children for being a source of pride and motivation to those who serve. Your sacrifices and challenges do not go unnoticed. We salute and honor you!

Thank you Danielle S. & Tina M!!!

A Little Riddle...

APRIL SHOWERS BRING May flowers but what do Mayflowers Bring?

Answer : Pilgrims

Key Volunteer Network
1st Battalion 25th Marines
4th Marine Division
53 Quebec Street
Devens RFTA
Ayer, Massachusetts 01432-4424



Mailing Address

*A very Happy Birthday to our extended Marine Family Members who
celebrate a Birthday in the Month of April*

Heather Gallagher
Mannuel Fragoso
Joan Bailey
James DePalo
Diane Melendez
Iris Colon
Timothy Richardson



James Brown
Anne Kelly
Michael Dumont
Jessica Gadarowski
Steven Ojalzto
Carol Yackley
Gilbert Duprey
Penny Landro

**DID WE MISS YOUR BIRTHDAY?
LET US KNOW AND HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU TOO!**

MITT TEAM 1/25

One Team One Mission

MITT TEAM OUTLET



APRIL 21, 2006

MITT TEAM ARRIVES IN IRAQ

Since we have left the United States, we have traveled many miles which has led us from Camp Pendleton to Twentynine Palms California through New Hampshire, Iceland, Germany, Camp Victory Kuwait, Camp Striker Baghdad and Tadij Iraq. We are now into our final phase of training which will be a review of everything we have been trained to over the last four months.

Our Military Transition Team's (MiTT) primary mission is to advise and instruct an Iraqi Battalion in combat operations. This consists of advising our Iraqi Counterparts in everything from planning of combat operations, organization and development of their logistical support, intelligence collection, medical training and treatment, and acting as liaisons between coalition forces and the ISF during combined operations. The MiTT teams are now seen as the main effort as the United States begins to assist Iraq in the rebuilding of their nation.

We have a tough road ahead of us, but with the knowledge and experience within our 11 man team we have the ability to make a difference in the lives and futures of the Iraqi People.

This will be our first of many newsletters that we will be sending out as much as our operational commitments allow. Through this newsletter we will attempt to keep our family and friends current of our situation in Iraq. Please let your team member know of any additional information you would like us to include in this newsletter. Talk with you again soon.

Sincerely,

MITT 1/25

TEAM WISH LIST

THE LIST:

If you wish to send packages to your love ones this section will provide a list of those items needed to complete our mission or make our lives a little more bearable.

At this time the team is not in need of anything, but a couple of electric flyswatters would provide some hours of entertainment.

Doc Peterson and Sgt Hernandez show off Capt Letendre's trophy catch of the day.



NEWSLETTER UPDATES

MEET THE TEAM



Top Row From Left to Right: Sgt Gregory Krill (Communication Chief), Sgt Ashley Hernandez (Intelligence Chief), Maj David Mayhan (Staff Maneuvers Trainer), Capt Brian Letendre (Infantry Tactics Instructor), SSgt Steven Davis (Fire Support Chief), Capt Todd Lucht (Logistics Officer). Bottom Row From Left to Right: HM1 Lonnie "Doc" Peterson (Team Corpsman), Capt Waylon White (Fire Support Officer), LtCol Kris Stillings (Team Leader), MSgt Jose Guillen (Logistics Chief), CWO2 Jason Forgash (Intelligence Officer).